

CLAIMS

1. Device (2) for protecting a container (1), particularly a container made of composite material intended to contain a fluid under pressure, and having a cylindrical side wall (1a) and rounded ends (1b) commonly known as "domes", the device (2) being characterized in that it comprises:
 - a shell (10) made of a puncture-resistant material, shaped to envelope at least the entirety of a dome (1b) of the container (1), delimiting a space between its interior face and the exterior face of the wall of the container (1); and
 - a compressible material (11) capable of deadening a knock or impact, filling the entirety of the aforementioned space.
2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the shell (10) is made of synthetic resin, particularly of thermoplastic resin such as acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene or polycarbonate.
3. Device according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that the compressible material (11) is expanded polystyrene, a polyurethane or polyethylene foam, or any other expanded synthetic material.
4. Device according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it is shaped to cover not only the entirety of the dome (1b) of the container (1) but also the portion of the side wall (1a) of the container (1) that is adjacent to the base of this dome (1b).

5. Device according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the shell (10) has, at the end corresponding to the side wall (1a) of the container (1), a wall (10a) roughly parallel to the axis of the container (1) and, at the end corresponding to the top of the dome (1b) of the container (1), a wall (10b) perpendicular to this axis, these two walls (10a, 10b) meeting in the form of a rounded zone (10c).
6. Device according to one of claims 1 to 5, intended to equip a container (1) comprising a connection piece (7) situated at the top of the dome (1b), characterized in that it comprises an annular projection (12), the height of which is such that it extends beyond the free end of said connecting piece (7) when the device (2) is placed on this dome (1b).
7. Device according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that it is mounted removably on the container (1).
8. Device according to claim 7, said connecting piece (7) being threaded at its free end, characterized in that it is shaped to surround this connecting piece (7) in such a way that the exterior face of the shell (10) is set back from the threaded free end of the connecting piece (7), and in that it comprises a tapped ring (8) which can be screwed onto said connecting piece (7) and bear against said shell (10) in order to mount the device (2) on the dome (1b).
9. Container (1) equipped with the device (2) according to one of claims 1 to 8.